

QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE THE NEED TO SUBMIT AN ORNAMENTAL LANDSCAPE PLANT SAMPLE FOR SUDDEN OAK DEATH (*Phytophthora ramorum*) TESTING

This key was adapted by Suzanne Spencer (NCDA&CS) for North Carolina from one originally developed by Jennifer Parke (Oregon State University) and Susan Frankel (U.S. Forest Service) for the PRED (*Phytophthora ramorum* Educate to Detect) Program (<http://www.ncipm.org/sod>).

1. What kind of plant is affected?
 - a. If the plant is an oak, beech, chestnut, or other tree, **go to # 2**
 - b. If the plant is an ornamental landscape plant or shrub, **go to # 3**.
2. If you are concerned about an oak or other tree, have you purchased an ornamental plant (specifically, a camellia, rhododendron, viburnum, pieris, kalmia, or lilac) since 2002 and planted it near the affected tree?
 - a. If YES, contact a NC Division of Forest Resources County Ranger (http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/contacts/contacts_main.htm) for further assistance in evaluating the tree: or call (919) 733-2162 in Raleigh. Also continue **to # 5** to further evaluate the ornamental plant.
 - b. If NO, this is NOT likely to be *P. ramorum*. You may still contact a NCFS County Ranger for assistance with diagnosis of the problem. **See #2a** for contact info.
3. What type of ornamental landscape plant is affected?
 - a. If the affected plant is a camellia, rhododendron, viburnum, pieris, kalmia, or lilac purchased since 2002, **go to # 5**.
 - b. If the affected plant is growing **adjacent to** a camellia, rhododendron, viburnum, pieris, kalmia, or lilac purchased since 2002, **go to # 4**.
 - c. If neither a. nor b. above applies to your situation, this is NOT likely to be *P. ramorum*. **No sample is needed at this time****.
4. Is the ornamental plant on the host list or associated plant list for *P. ramorum* (posted at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/pram/downloads/pdf_files/usdaprlst.pdf) , or is it in the same genus as one of these listed plants?
 - a. If NO, this is NOT likely to be *P. ramorum*. **No sample is needed at this time****.
 - b. If YES, **go to # 5**.
5. Does the ornamental plant have leaf symptoms (leaf-spots, leaves falling off) or stem dieback similar to those in the photos at <http://www.ncipmc.org/alerts/suddenoakdeath/images.cfm> ?
 - a. If NO, this is NOT likely to be *P. ramorum*. **No sample is needed at this time****.
 - b. If **YES, SUBMIT A SAMPLE**. Complete a "Sample Submission Form" and send it with the plant sample to the NCDA&CS lab at the address given on the form.

If you have difficulties using this key or want more information, contact the NCDA&CS Sudden Oak Death Program in Raleigh at SODinfo@ncmail.net or by phone toll-free (800)206-9333.

**** If you were advised in the above key "No sample is needed at this time", you may still send a sample to the lab for testing if you continue to have concerns. There is always a chance the plant could be affected by S.O.D. even if it is not currently a "highly-suspect" species. Also, all infected plants may not have "typical" symptoms.**

Information on other plant diseases and disorders that may be causing the symptoms of concern are available through your local NC Cooperative Extension Service (NCCES) county office:
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/counties>